

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES MAY 2003



In All Six Southwest Counties, Unemployment Rates Decline in April

April Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for **the Janesville/Beloit Metropolitan Area** declined by .02 percentage points to 6.9 percent in April. In another sign of movement by the local labor market in a positive direction is the decline of almost a full percent (0.7 percentage points) in the April 2003 metro rate as compared to the Janesville/Beloit Metro rate recorded last April.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Southwest Wisconsin declined by a full percent in April, diving to 6.4 percent. The Southwest Wisconsin unadjusted rate fell by 0.2 percentage points compared to last April, on the strength of strong year-to-year decreases in unadjusted unemployment rates in Lafayette and Rock Counties.

Nonfarm employment increased by 1,800 in April, a 1.5 percent increase in nonfarm employment as compared to March. Sixty-two percent of the increase in employment was in service producing industries, the largest gain during the month came in the leisure & hospitality sector. About 23 percent in employment during the month came in the construction industry, fueled both by the usual good weather boom in that industry along with low interest rates. Just 15 percent of the employment increase came from manufacturing industries.

rate increased from 5.8 percent in March to 6.0 percent in April.

Wisconsin's unadjusted rate was estimated at 5.8 percent in April. It had been 6.5 percent in March. One year ago in April, the state's unadjusted rate was 5.9 percent. The number of people estimated unemployed in the state dropped from 199,982 in March to 177,813 in April. The number reported to be employed rose to 2,896,644 in April. Each one-tenth of a percent drop in Wisconsin's unemployment rate lowers the number of unemployed by about 3,000.

The greatest seasonal increases were construction and the leisure & hospitality industry. Construction saw a 9,600 job increase from March, although the industry is still lagging where it was last year at this time. The leisure & hospitality industry gained 6,100 jobs over its March figure and is up

about 1,300 jobs from last April. Manufacturing, which normally posts a slight increase in April, lost 1,100 jobs last month. The financial activities sector and the educational services and health services continue to do well, as they have over the past few years, bucking the

general decrease in jobs seen in most sectors. Both of these industries are up over last year's figures, with financial activities up 3,400 jobs and educational and health services up 6,900 jobs. Retail trade employment is off to a slow start, with 310,000 jobs reported for April, up 2,600 jobs from the March 2003 figure and down from 310,700 last year.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville/Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
<u>Current month: April 2003</u>			
Civilian Labor Force	78,900	3,091.9	146,473
Employment	73,500	2,925.9	137,687
Unemployment	5,400	166.0	8,786
Unemployment rate	6.9%	5.4%	6.0%
<u>Change from one month ago</u>			
Civilian Labor Force	-600	-14.1	680
Employment	-300	-9.2	339
Unemployment	-200	-4.9	341
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-0.1%	0.2%
<u>Change from one year ago</u>			
Civilian Labor Force	400	62.2	1,710
Employment	900	63.6	1,491
Unemployment	-500	-1.5	219
Unemployment rate	-0.7%	-0.1%	0.1%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

Statewide

Wisconsin's unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, dropped to 5.4 percent in April from 5.5 percent in March. One year ago, Wisconsin's unemployment rate seasonally adjusted was 5.5 percent. The national seasonally adjusted

Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

April 2003	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Non MSA's *	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	25,825	17,063	14,227	7,541	8,754	78,494	151,904	73,410	3,074,457
Employed	24,154	15,876	13,535	7,013	8,205	73,396	142,179	68,783	2,896,644
Unemployed	1,671	1,187	692	528	549	5,098	9,725	4,627	177,813
Unemployment rate(%)	6.5	7.0	4.9	7.0	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.3	5.8
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	19,400	13,400	11,200	3,690	6,000	67,200	120,900	53,700	2,765,100
Total Private	13,900	11,300	9,700	2,540	4,800	58,100	100,400	42,300	2,337,700
Goods Producing	3,500	3,500	1,200	640	1,800	17,900	28,500	10,600	627,200
Service Producing	15,900	9,900	10,000	3,050	4,300	49,300	92,400	43,100	2,137,900
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	600	700	500	140	200	2,700	4,800	2,100	112,600
Manufacturing	3,000	2,800	600	500	1,600	15,200	23,700	8,500	514,600
Trade	2,700	2,400	5,600	670	1,100	12,500	25,100	12,600	425,000
Transportation & Utilities	500	300	300	200	100	2,700	4,200	1,500	310,000
Financial Activities	1,100	400	200	180	300	1,900	4,100	2,200	155,700
Education and Health Services	2,200	2,200	900	300	600	8,600	14,900	6,300	362,500
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	1,400	1,000	250	500	5,700	10,600	4,900	232,700
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,100	1,100	400	320	400	8,800	13,100	4,300	948,200
Total Government	5,470	2,060	1,510	1,150	1,250	9,100	20,500	11,400	427,400
Federal	170	90	100	70	60	300	800	500	28,800
State	2,360	40	80	30	210	500	3,200	2,700	103,800
Local	2,950	1,930	1,340	1,050	980	8,300	16,500	8,200	294,800
Change from one month ago	March 2003								
Civilian Labor Force**	120	-150	200	-140	20	-300	-290	100	-7,800
Employed	360	80	390	40	90	300	1,300	1,000	14,400
Unemployed	-240	-230	-190	-180	-70	-700	-1,590	-900	-22,200
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.9	-1.2	-1.4	-2.2	-0.8	-0.8	-1.0	-1.3	-0.7
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	380	130	390	30	90	800	1,800	1,000	25,500
Percent change NFWS last month	2.0%	1.0%	3.6%	0.9%	1.6%	1.2%	1.5%	2.0%	0.9%
Total Private	400	100	300	60	100	800	1,800	1,000	24,000
Goods Producing	200	100	0	40	0	300	700	400	8,900
Service Producing	200	0	300	0	100	500	1,100	600	16,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	60	110	40	10	20	200	400	200	10,000
Manufacturing	170	-10	0	30	-10	100	300	200	-1,100
Trade	10	-30	80	0	30	100	200	100	2,600
Transportation & Utilities	30	10	30	10	10	0	100	100	2,600
Financial Activities	40	0	10	0	10	0	100	100	2,300
Education and Health Services	0	-30	30	0	0	100	100	0	-600
Leisure & Hospitality	50	70	150	-10	30	200	500	300	6,100
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	-10	-20	10	10	10	100	100	0	6,000
Total Government	10	30	40	-20	0	0	100	100	1,500
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100
State	70	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	900
Local	-60	30	40	-20	0	0	0	0	700
Change from one year ago	April 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	720	-560	800	290	320	400	2,000	1,600	62,700
Employed	540	-580	110	300	240	900	2,200	1,200	63,400
Unemployed	180	30	60	-10	80	-500	-100	300	-700
Unemployment rate(%)	0.6	0.4	0.2	-0.4	0.8	-0.7	-0.2	0.3	-0.1
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	60	-800	420	100	60	-200	-300	-200	-800
Percent change NFWS last year	0.3%	-5.6%	3.9%	2.7%	1.0%	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.3%	0.0%
Total Private	0	-800	400	130	0	-300	-500	-200	0
Goods Producing	-100	-200	0	-10	-100	-700	-1,200	-500	-19,400
Service Producing	100	-600	500	100	100	500	800	300	18,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-30	120	-30	0	-10	-200	-200	100	-8,900
Manufacturing	-50	-370	-10	-10	-70	-500	-1,000	-500	-10,600
Trade	-80	-390	260	10	10	400	200	-200	500
Transportation & Utilities	50	30	30	0	0	-100	0	100	-700
Financial Activities	110	30	10	-10	30	0	100	200	3,400
Education and Health Services	0	-10	10	50	40	300	400	100	6,900
Leisure & Hospitality	110	220	160	40	50	-300	300	600	1,300
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	-70	-470	-30	40	10	200	-300	-500	17,500
Total Government	20	30	10	-30	10	130	200	0	-900
Federal	-10	0	0	0	0	-50	-100	0	-700
State	100	0	-10	0	10	50	100	100	-1,100
Local	-70	40	20	-30	0	140	100	0	1,000

* Five counties, excluding Rock County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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